

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



**Attorney General Josh Stein
North Carolina Department of Justice**

To the People of North Carolina:

It is the greatest honor of my professional career to serve as your North Carolina Attorney General, and we've had a terrific first year. I wanted this job so that I could work each day to protect the people of our state – and as you will read in this report, we've done that in a number of ways in 2017.

Protecting People from Crime

The Department of Justice protects families by fighting crime. Specifically, we prosecute complex criminal cases district attorneys refer to us, we handle appeals to uphold criminal convictions, we train law enforcement officers at the Justice Academy, we analyze crime scene evidence at the State Crime Laboratory, we go after Medicaid fraud and tax cheats, and we participate in important criminal justice policy debates, like the opioid crisis.

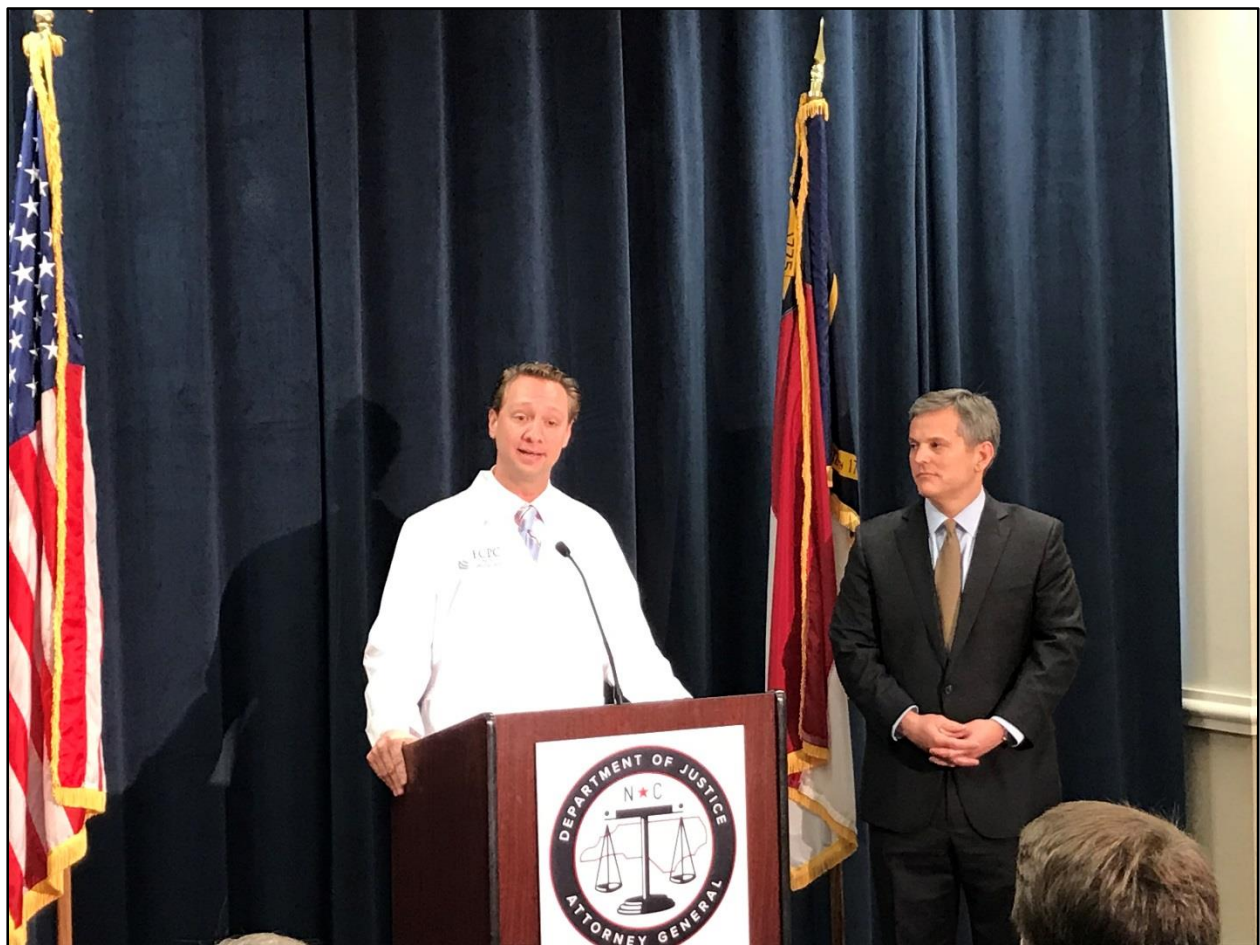
Confronting the opioid epidemic has been a top priority for my office over the last year. As you have likely read, overdose deaths are the number one cause of accidental death in our state – more than gun violence or car crashes. I held more than 20 community round tables around the state to bring people together and learn about innovative ways they are confronting the crisis – and to find out what communities need to prevent addiction and save lives.



Attorney General Stein awarded several people with the North Carolina Dogwood Award, the Attorney General's Award of Appreciation, for their work to confront the opioid epidemic.

I believe that a comprehensive plan to address the crisis includes prevention, treatment, and enforcement. I am proud to have helped draft and pass two laws that will further these goals. First, the Strengthening Opioid Misuse Prevention Act (STOP Act) will reduce the number of people who become addicted to opioids in the first place through smarter prescribing practices by doctors and dentists. Second, the Synthetic Opioid Control Act closes a loophole in North Carolina criminal law to give law enforcement an additional tool to go after traffickers and dealers.

Another important type of accountability is corporate accountability. That's why I am investigating the role of the drug companies in contributing to this mess. While millions of people were becoming addicted to prescription painkillers and communities were struggling to respond, pharmaceutical companies were earning billions of dollars in profits. I am part of the leadership of a bipartisan group of 41 attorneys general from across the country to investigate these drug companies. I have already filed a lawsuit against one opioid manufacturer, and if I determine that any other drug manufacturers or distributors unlawfully created or fueled this crisis, I will hold them accountable, as well.



Dr. Christopher Grubb speaks about the dangers of prescription drug addiction at Attorney General Stein's press conference to announce his lawsuit against the fentanyl manufacturer Insys.

This crisis touches many of us too close to home. If you are interested in getting involved in your area, I have two recommendations. First, take a look at your medicine cabinet and collect any extra prescription drugs you might have. Visit ncdoj.gov/rxtakeback and find out where you can safely dispose of those drugs to keep them out of the wrong hands. Second, visit ncdoj.gov/opioidresources to learn more about how people around North Carolina are taking action to stop this scourge in their own communities, and consider what might work in yours.

We made great progress in beginning to combat the opioid epidemic in 2017, but there is so much work still to do. In 2018, I'll continue this work with an increased effort to address prevention and treatment.



Attorney General Josh Stein, Special Agent in Charge John Keane, and SBI Director Bob Schurmeier promote Operation Medicine Drop to encourage the public to safely dispose of unused, unwanted, and expired medications.

Protecting Consumers

As Attorney General, I also protect seniors and consumers from scam artists and corporations that break the law to try to take people's hard-earned money. We work to go after those scammers and hold them accountable, but because so many of these criminals operate overseas, enforcement is challenging. Prevention is often the best strategy – which is why my office works to educate people on how to protect themselves from scams and identity theft. I am specifically concerned about the continued targeting of seniors through elder fraud and encourage all children of adult parents or grandparents to discuss ways to prevent scams and fraud with their families. For more information on how to stay safe, visit ncdoj.gov/elderfraud.



Attorney General Josh Stein joins Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, AARP NC Director Doug Dickerson, and Chatham County Sheriff's Detective Mike Copeland to answer questions from AARP members about scams and fraud.

In addition to protecting people from scams, I am also very concerned about the increasing number of data breaches we've seen – two out of every three adults in North Carolina may have been impacted by a recent breach to data at Equifax, the credit reporting agency. In 2018, I'm working with Rep. Jason Saine and other legislators in the House and Senate to strengthen our already strong laws on protecting data and preventing identity theft.

Protecting the State of North Carolina

My office also protects North Carolina's environment and the rights of our people. We defend the state against liability claims and in contract disputes. We go after people who are not paying child support and help to keep criminals behind bars.

Please know that hearing from people like you helps me to better do my job. If you have ideas for areas that need attention, are concerned about a business that may be mistreating consumers, or want to share your views, please email my office at ncago@ncdoj.gov.

Thank you for taking the time to review this annual report. I will continue to share information with you about my work transparently and frequently so that you can be sure your Department of Justice is working on your behalf.

Sincerely,

Josh Stein

I. What is the North Carolina Department of Justice?

The North Carolina Department of Justice (NCDOJ), headed by Attorney General Josh Stein, has four primary functions: provide legal representation to state agencies, assist local law enforcement in fighting crime and prosecuting cases, manage training and standards for law enforcement, and protect North Carolina consumers and vulnerable populations.

In addition to our work at the Attorney General's office fighting crime, serving as legal counsel to state agencies, commissions, and boards, and protecting consumers, we also house the State Crime Laboratory and the North Carolina Justice Academy.

II. Fighting Crime in North Carolina

We go after people who have violated the law by training law enforcement officers at the Justice Academy and using science to promote justice as we analyze crime scene evidence at the State Crime Laboratory.

Medicaid Investigations Division

The Medicaid Investigations Division (MID) is staffed by NCDOJ attorneys, SBI Special Agents, investigators, and auditors who work to investigate and litigate health care fraud cases. That includes fraud committed by Medicaid healthcare providers, the physical abuse of patients in Medicaid-funded facilities, and improper use of patient or Medicaid funds.

One of the division's biggest accomplishments this year was a criminal conviction for Medicaid fraud arising out of a joint MID investigation, with both the United States Department of Health and Human Resources Office of Inspector General and the Internal Revenue Service. The investigation targeted a Pitt County man who submitted millions of dollars in false Medicaid claims using a complicated scheme involving large transactions and various groups of individuals. The man was convicted of conspiracy to commit health care fraud in federal court and was sentenced to 108 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay restitution of more than \$5.5 million. This case was jointly prosecuted by MID and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina as part of MID's joint partnership program with the three United States Attorneys' Offices in the state. MID has multiple attorneys who also serve as Special Assistant United States Attorneys, and are thus able to pursue Medicaid fraud in both state and federal court on behalf of the North Carolina Department of Justice and the people of North Carolina.

When people defraud Medicaid, it means that less money is available to provide medical services to those in need – and taxpayer money is wasted. The Department of Justice will not tolerate this fraud, and our attorneys will continue to investigate and prosecute people who misuse these programs.

In 2017, MID won 18 criminal convictions and 20 civil settlements. Through civil settlements and criminal recoveries, the Division recovered **nearly \$37 million** in restitution and penalties from people convicted of Medicaid-related health care fraud.

Criminal Appeals and Post-Conviction Litigation

The Criminal Appellate Section represents the State of North Carolina in appeals to the N.C. Court of Appeals and N.C. Supreme Court. In 2017, the North Carolina Department of Justice handled approximately 650 appellate cases. In many of these cases, defendants who had been convicted of violent criminal acts were seeking to have their convictions overturned. North Carolina Department of Justice attorneys defend the convictions obtained by local district attorneys.

Additionally, NCDOJ represents North Carolina in non-capital habeas cases in federal court and in capital post-conviction matters at all levels of state and federal courts. In 2017, the section handled more than 150 cases.

Special Prosecutions

NCDOJ often acts as special prosecutors in instances when a district attorney's office requests assistance with a case. This typically occurs when the DA's Office has a conflict of interest or when assistance is needed in prosecuting complex or multi-jurisdictional cases. In 2017, NCDOJ's special prosecutions work included cases involving second degree murder, felony statutory rape, indecent liberties with a child, and involuntary manslaughter, among others.

The special prosecutions work also includes cases that involve tax fraud, tax evasion, and embezzlement.

In tax fraud cases, Special Prosecutions won \$459,858.15 in restitution to the State during 2017.



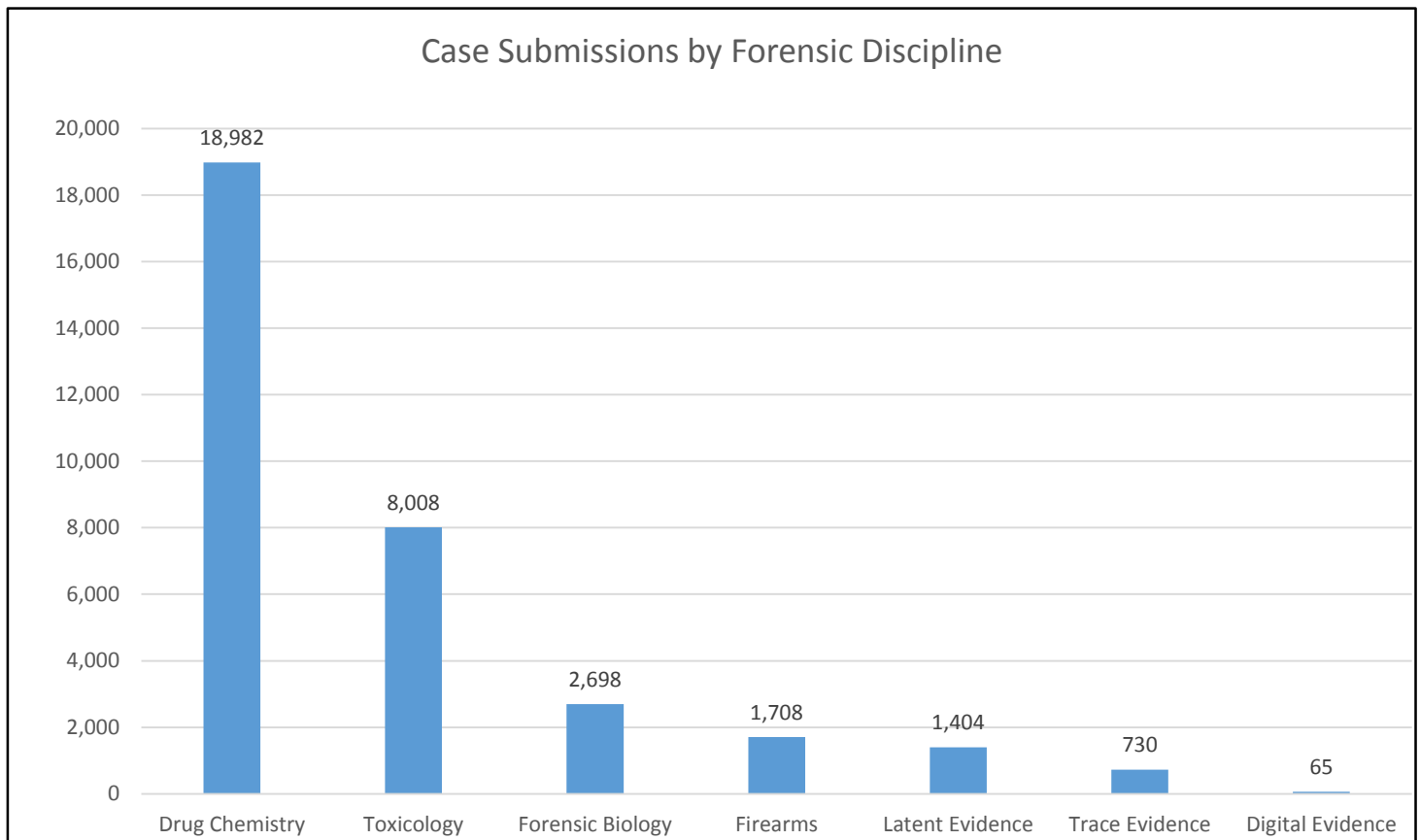
Public Safety and Law Enforcement Liaison Sections

The Public Safety Section of NCDOJ represents the North Carolina Department of Public Safety in civil litigation in state administrative and trial courts, federal trial courts, and the related appellate courts. In 2017, the Public Safety Section handled more than 160 cases including prisoner litigation in federal court, Crime Victim's Compensation Commission appeals, personnel cases, and appeals involving the satellite-based monitoring of sex offenders.

The Law Enforcement Liaison Section of NCDOJ defends the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission when it devises or rescinds certification of an officer or law enforcement agency. Last year, it handled more than 80 cases on behalf of, or in consultation with, the various commissions it represents. The LEL Section fosters close working relationships with our law enforcement partners and works with the Justice Academy to create and implement training for law enforcement officers.

State Crime Lab

This year, the State Crime Lab processed 49,000 items of evidence. The Lab accepted 33,595 cases and completed 33,984 case records.





The Kastle–Meyer test is a presumptive blood test, in which the chemical indicator phenolphthalein is used to detect the possible presence of blood.

In 2017, the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory officially opened its new Western Crime Lab facility. The new lab will help reduce the turnaround time of cases in western North Carolina by offering services in Drug Chemistry, Toxicology, Latent Evidence, Firearms, and Tool Mark. The Lab will offer new services in Forensic Biology (DNA) in 2018.



Ribbon cutting and open house of the new Western Regional Lab on December 4, 2017.

North Carolina Justice Academy

The North Carolina Justice Academy is responsible for providing different levels of training for law enforcement officers across the state. The NCJA offers a wide array of educational courses in its campus locations in Edneyville and Salemburg, including human trafficking, anti-terrorism, firearms, and community-oriented policing.



Justice Academy Director Trevor Allen, Attorney General Josh Stein, and baseball legend Darryl Strawberry at the Justice Academy's Opioid Addiction Epidemic Conference.

NCJA at a Glance - 2017

590 Courses Offered

84,972 Online Trainings Completed

11,728 Students Trained In-Person

Law Enforcement Commissions

NCDOJ houses both the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commissions. Both commissions regulate and oversee training and certification for officers in law enforcement and criminal justice. The commissions also hear cases of officers who have been accused of violating commission rules.

In 2017, the Criminal Justice Standards Division (CJ Standards) conducted its first annual audit of all certified officers assigned to the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. CJ Standards also held six certification workshops to train law enforcement officers and held an annual School Director's Conference to update more than 300 school directors and qualified assistants on best practices.

In 2017, the Sheriffs' Standards Division issued 2,846 justice office certifications, bringing the total number of justice officers currently certified with the Sheriffs' Commission up to 27,335.

Justice officer certification breakdowns are as follows:

- 1,076 new deputy sheriff certifications (total of 15,362 deputy sheriffs)
- 1,524 new detention officers (total of 10,131 detention officers)
- 246 new telecommunicators, including 911 operators (total of 1,842 telecommunicators)

CJ Standards at a Glance - 2017

Certified more than 2,567 law enforcement officers at 517 agencies

Conducted 173 investigations

Certified 2,411 correctional officers

Conducted 194 agency audits

III. Protecting North Carolina Consumers

Scams

In 2017, the Consumer Protection Division received 20,464 consumer complaints about scams and harmful business practices. Of these complaints, 5,862 were reports of elder fraud. Last year, the NCDOJ refunded consumers \$3.5 million based on these complaints and returned \$2 million to elders in cases of elder fraud.



Settlements

In 2017, the Department of Justice won more than \$75 million in settlements and court awards on behalf of the people of North Carolina.

Attorney General Stein and the Consumer Protection Division:

- Won a **\$16 million** settlement with [Moody's](#) over its role in creating the financial crisis
- Won **\$18.6 million** from [DISH](#) Network over the Do-Not-Call List
- Won **\$520,000** in settlements with [Target](#) and [Nationwide](#) over data breaches
- Won **\$2.69 million** in a settlement with [General Motors](#) over vehicle safety issues

In 2017, the Consumer Protection Division received 20,464 consumer complaints about scams and harmful business practices.

**Money restored to consumers as a result of action on
their complaints = \$3,504,471.**

Taking on Deceptive Businesses

Attorney General Stein and the Consumer Protection Division took deceptive businesses to court to protect North Carolina's consumers. NCDOJ successfully filed a lawsuit to get access to a closed Winston-Salem dry-cleaning business and help customers retrieve their clothes. After the business was shut down due to unpaid taxes, customers submitted complaints to the Attorney General's office. NCDOJ went to court on their behalf and spent two days in Winston-Salem reuniting people with their belongings.

Attorney General Stein and the Consumer Protection Division also successfully took online retailer eRummagers to court over failing to deliver goods consumers purchased and refusing to provide refunds.

Protecting Students

In recent years, NCDOJ has investigated and settled with numerous for-profit colleges including Corinthian Colleges, ITT Technical Institute, and Education Management Corporation over their deceptive business practices.

These cases have resulted in loan debt relief and reforms to how the schools recruit students and disclose outcomes. Last summer, NCDOJ worked with the UNC Board of Governors to investigate the for-profit Charlotte School of Law, leading to revocation of its license to operate, after evidence emerged that it had failed to deliver on its promises to students and failed to make the necessary changes to its policies and operations.

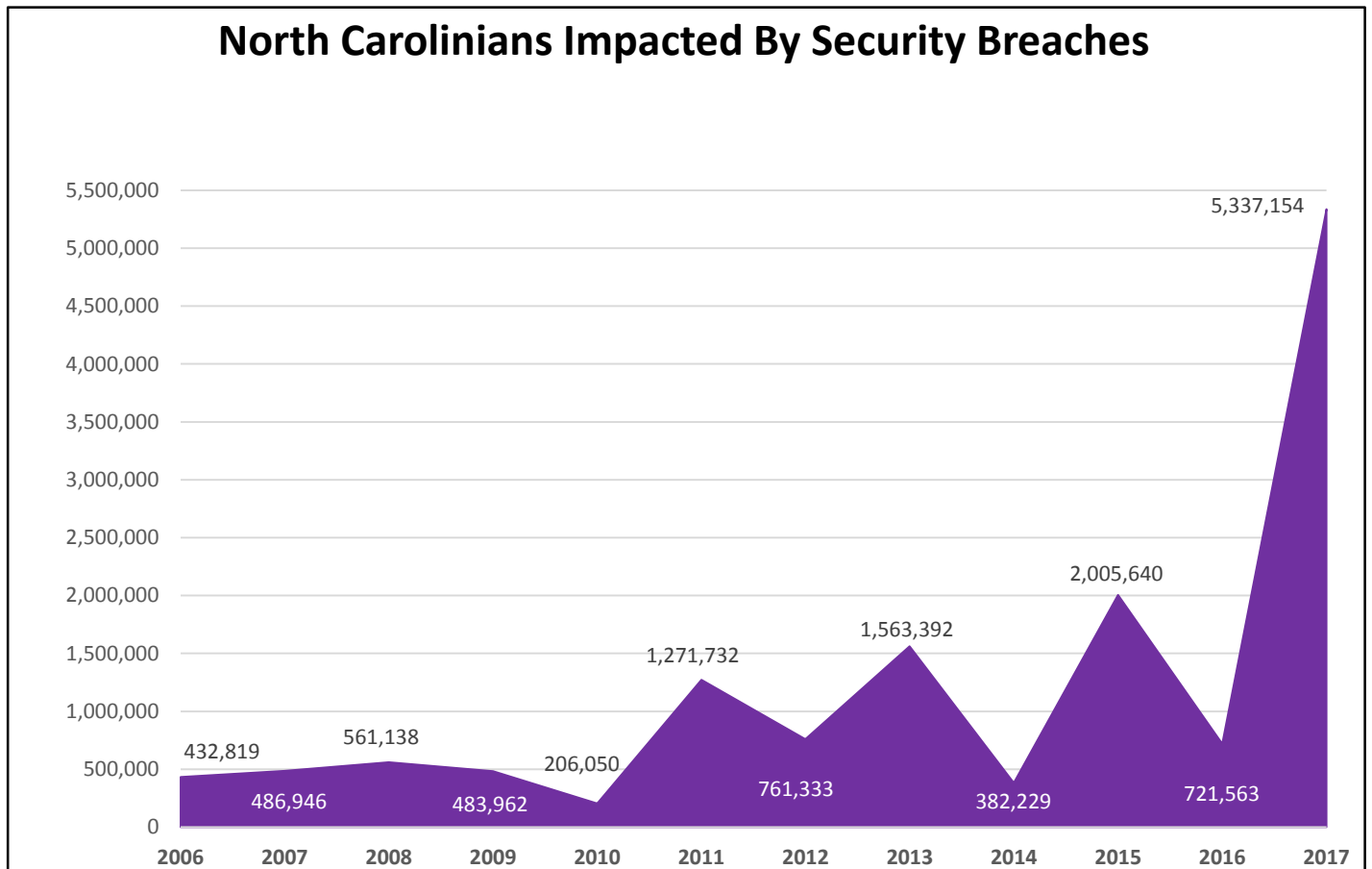


Attorney General Stein and students from West Charlotte High School after a program encouraging them to be smart consumers of higher education. Learn more about paying for college at ncdoj.gov/payingforcollege.

Data Breaches

Under North Carolina law, businesses and state and local governments are required to report security breaches to the Attorney General's Office. In 2017, 1,022 data breaches affecting nearly five million North Carolinians were reported to our office.

National credit bureau Equifax experienced the most significant security breach in American history in 2017. Hackers accessed the private information of an estimated 5 million North Carolinians. This information included full names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and driver license numbers. Also this year, a data breach at ride-sharing company Uber affected approximately 57 million people.



Attorney General Stein is working to hold Equifax, Uber, and other companies accountable through investigations he's launched with other attorneys general around the nation. In addition, he's partnering with Rep. Jason Saine to firm up North Carolina's laws to better prevent breaches and protect people after they've occurred with the Act to Strengthen Identity Theft Protections.



AARP North Carolina Director Doug Dickerson, Attorney General Josh Stein, and Rep. Jason Saine announce the Act to Strengthen Identity Theft Protections.

Protecting Ratepayers

Attorney General Stein filed comments opposing Duke Progress' proposed double digit rate increase, arguing that it is wrong for consumers to have to pay for the cost of coal ash removal when Duke Progress knew coal ash was toxic and failed to take adequate measures at the time when it would have been substantially less expensive to do so.

Protecting People's Health

Attorney General Stein continued the oversight of the tobacco companies' payments that are part of the master settlement agreement. Last year, North Carolina received \$141 million in tobacco settlement payments.

IV. Protecting the State

The North Carolina Department of Justice also serves as legal counsel for state government. That means we represent agencies, boards, commissions, and state employees. Below is an overview of how we've worked to protect the state – and the taxpayer – in 2017.

Protecting the Environment

The Environmental Division is focused on protecting North Carolina's environment and natural resources. In September of this year, NCDOJ took legal action on behalf of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to stop chemical company Chemours from discharging the potentially-harmful chemical GenX into the Cape Fear River. NCDOJ lawyers are continuing to work with DEQ to ensure that the Cape Fear River is protected from future unauthorized discharges and that residual contamination in and around the facility is addressed. The court issued a preliminary injunction ordering Chemours to cease GenX discharges.

After flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew threatened dam failures at various locations across the state, NCDOJ and DEQ filed an action for injunctive relief against the owners of Woodlake Dam in Moore County to protect thousands of downstream residents and their property. As a result of the action, a court ordered the dam's owners to take immediate action to safely breach or repair the severely damaged dam. The owners failed to do so, and DEQ breached the dam itself. NCDOJ will continue to work with DEQ on this issue; the next step is to recover the costs to breach the dam from Woodlake.

NCDOJ also successfully defended a challenge to the Attorney General's agreement with Smithfield Foods that makes up to \$2 million available annually for projects that protect and enhance North Carolina's environment. NCDOJ won in the trial court and the case is now on appeal.

Throughout 2017, NCDOJ pursued lawsuits on behalf of DEQ to address various surface water and groundwater violations associated with coal ash impoundments at Duke Energy's coal fired facilities. We also held an operator of a hazardous waste site near Asheville responsible for remediating historical environmental contamination.

Finally, after learning that a railroad had stored hundreds of butane-filled rail cars immediately adjacent to homes and schools in Star, North Carolina, our attorneys took them to court. The railroad is now required to take safety precautions to keep children and residents safe.



NCDOJ environmental attorneys took a railroad to court to stop butane-filled rail cars from being stored near homes and schools.



North Carolina Department of Justice Chief Deputy Alec Peters speaks in court.

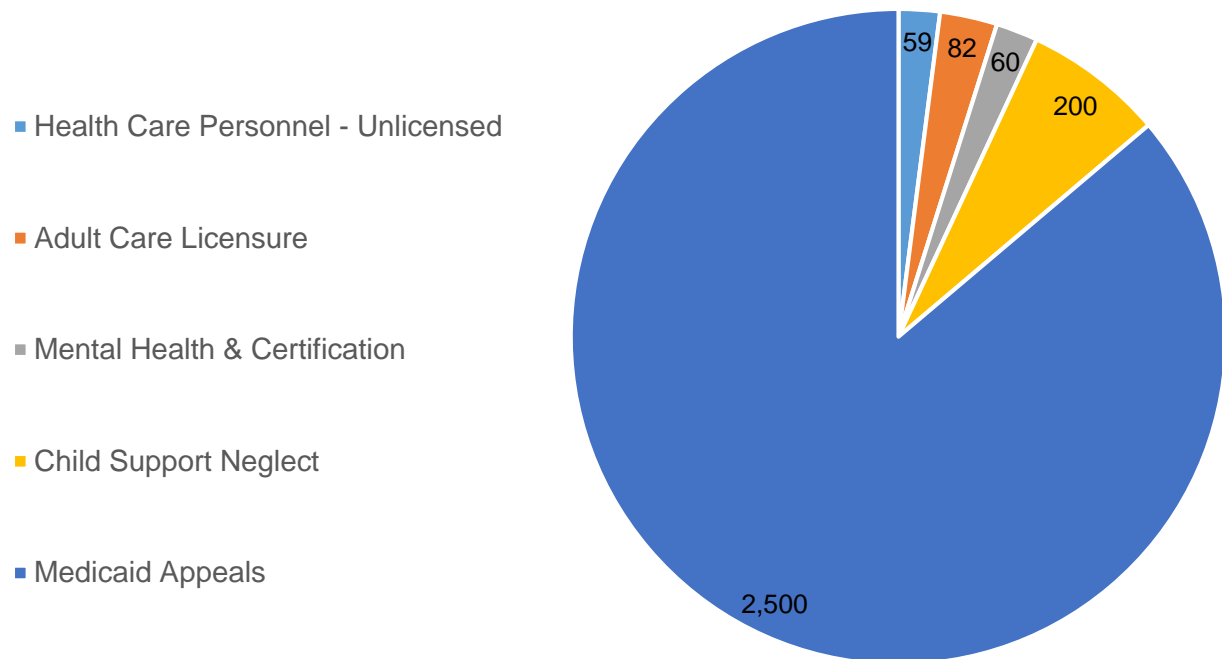
Health and Human Services

NCDOJ attorneys in the Health and Human Services section work to protect the elderly, ill, and children, as well as protect taxpayers from health care fraud.

Attorneys resolved 59 health care personnel registry cases to prevent unlicensed health care workers with substantiated findings of abuse, neglect, misappropriation, fraud, or drug diversion from caring for vulnerable residents. DOJ also resolved 82 adult care licensure cases and 60 mental health licensure and certification cases to successfully protect some of the state's most fragile population.

Our attorneys also helped to train social workers on protecting disabled and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. We worked to protect the state by preventing septic tank wastewater contamination, unsafe conditions in restaurants, and communicable disease outbreaks in health care facilities.

Type of Health and Human Services Cases Resolved by DOJ Attorneys



NCDOJ fought to ensure children received the child support they are entitled to under the law in approximately 200 cases and trained child welfare staff to help them protect abused, neglected, and dependent children in juvenile court.

Attorneys also handled more than 2,500 Medicaid appeals, which saved the State of North Carolina millions of dollars in Medicaid costs. Legal advice related to casualty and trust cases resulted in Medicaid reimbursement in excess of \$30 million last year. NCDOJ also helped the State Medicaid agency with updated legislation to allow greater scrutiny of Medicaid providers, which will save the state millions in excessive provider payments.

Finally, NCDOJ, working together with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, will continue to respond to misuse of state funds by the public healthcare organization Cardinal Health Innovations.



North Carolina Department of Justice attorneys' hard work resulted in Medicaid reimbursements in excess of \$30 million for the State of North Carolina.

Department of Agriculture

North Carolina Department of Justice attorneys represent the Department of Agriculture to ensure that farmers' interests are protected and that food produced and sold in our state is safe.

For example, our attorneys work with the Meat and Poultry Division to ensure that meat and poultry sold is safe. In just one week, our office advised and defended the Department of Agriculture as it seized approximately 3,500 pounds of meat from the seller, who had previously been cited for selling adulterated, misbranded, and uninspected meat.

Department of State Treasurer

Attorneys who represent the Department of State Treasurer are defending the agency against a claim that would harm the ability of the State Treasurer and State Health Plan to balance premiums with state retirees' health benefits. More than one billion dollars are at stake in this case.

Attorneys also won a case to ensure a sustainable disability fund and to provide clarity to state employees and retirees on the rights of beneficiaries.

NCDOJ attorneys also are working with the Treasurer's Office to fight against school boards' attempt to stop implementation of the state's anti-pension-spiking statute. This law helps keep North Carolina's pension system solvent by closing a funding gap for benefits to retirees whose compensation spiked. When implemented, this statute will save taxpayers \$63.5 million over the next 23 years.

Department of Labor

Our attorneys provided legal counsel to The Department of Labor's OSHA Division on 138 inspections related to workplace fatalities or serious worksite accidents. We also represented the Department of Labor in 76 OSHA contestment proceedings.

We represented the State in 13 employment proceedings and represented the Department of Labor in three wage and hour actions including a judgment against Royal Home Care of North Carolina for wages owed in the amount of more than \$100,000 in damages, including wages owed to employees.

Tort Claims

The Tort Claims Section of the Attorney General's office defends state agencies and employees in claims grounded in negligence. Those claims range from wrongful death and medical malpractice actions to minor injury and property damage matters. In 2017, Tort Claims attorneys, investigators, and staff handled 1,500 claims. As a result of the Section's efforts over the past year, millions of dollars in taxpayer funds have been saved. Consequently, those funds may be used in the service of the State's people, as initially intended.

Collections

Finally, attorneys and staff at the NCDOJ work to collect on money that is owed to state agencies and universities – in many cases by individuals, contractors, or vendors.

**In 2017, the Department of Justice collected \$2,228,711.92
for money owed to state agencies and universities.**

North Carolina State Government

Attorneys and staff at the Department of Justice handle hundreds of similar cases each year for the Department of Insurance, the Secretary of State, the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Transportation, state universities, cabinet agencies, and numerous boards and commissions.

Preventing Crime

The Public Protection Section works directly with North Carolinians to prevent consumers and seniors from falling victim to scammers and predators. In 2017, outreach specialists and attorneys educated more than 7,000 North Carolinians on how to keep themselves safe.

A map of North Carolina showing its 100 counties. The counties are colored based on their region: Blue for Western North Carolina, Yellow for the Piedmont region, and Green for the Coastal Plain. The map includes labels for each county, such as Ashe, Alleghany, Stokes, and others. The colors are distributed as follows: Blue counties are primarily in the western part of the state, including Ashe, Alleghany, Stokes, and others. Yellow counties are in the central Piedmont region, including Guilford, Orange, and others. Green counties are along the eastern coast, including Currituck, Dare, and others.

21 | Page



Attorney General Josh Stein, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Public Safety Pam Cashwell, and Commander of State Highway Patrol Colonel Glenn McNeill join an event to mark Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Human Trafficking Commission

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission leads the State's efforts to combat and end human trafficking in North Carolina. The Commission is housed within the NCDOJ. In 2017, the Commission and NCDOJ lawyers and staff worked to build and strengthen relationships with anti-human trafficking advocates throughout the state and facilitate events with the Attorney General to discuss current endeavors and future policy solutions.

The Commission, with the assistance of NCDOJ, has participated or hosted five statewide human-trafficking events in 2017 to educate law enforcement officers about tools and methods to fight against human trafficking in their communities. We're starting to see the results of this work, as identification of human trafficking cases and victims is on the rise, an important step in making progress.

Open Government Unit

North Carolinians have access to records that provide information about the business of state government to ensure transparency in our work. At the NCDOJ, the Open Government Unit works to coordinate this access between the public and government officials, while ensuring that information and records shared adhere to public records and open meeting laws. The Open Government Unit helped 88 North Carolinians navigate the Public Records Act and other open government laws in 2017.



Attorney General Josh Stein speaks to reporters at the 2017 Sunshine Day Conference about the importance of an open government.

Address Confidentiality Program

As part of its work to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, the Public Protection Section operates the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) to help victims keep abusers from discovering their new address. ACP allows survivors of domestic violence and other forms of abuse to sign up for a substitute address that prevents abusers from accessing a survivor's new address. That way, abuse survivors can vote, get a driver's license, or sign up for utilities like water and electricity without the risk of making their location known to an abuser.

In 2017, ACP enrolled 155 new participants and co-participants (children/family members), for a total of 1,347 active participants. Since its inception in 2003, ACP has served 3,380 people. In addition, ACP held 10 training seminars across North Carolina this year to train an additional 124 volunteers to enroll survivors in the program.

Standing Up for North Carolinians

The most important job of the Attorney General is to protect the people of North Carolina. This year, Attorney General Stein and the North Carolina Department of Justice stood up for North Carolinians' fundamental rights in a variety of ways.

Protecting Students:

Attorney General Stein filed suit twice against the U.S. Department of Education this summer when it abruptly rescinded critical federal rules that protected student loan borrowers from predatory and deceptive practices. The rules were designed to hold abusive higher education institutions accountable for cheating students and taxpayers out of billions of dollars in federal loans. One rule was finalized in November 2016 after nearly two years of negotiations, following the collapse of Corinthian Colleges, a national for-profit chain which enrolled thousands of North Carolina students.

Attorney General Josh Stein also advocated on behalf of North Carolina students when he urged Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to keep in place important protections for survivors of sexual assault on college campuses amid reports that the U.S. Department of Education was preparing to roll them back.

Protecting Consumers:

In the final weeks of 2017, Attorney General Stein stood up for North Carolina consumers by calling on the U.S. Department of Transportation to keep a rule that requires airlines to disclose baggage fees upfront. This rule helps travelers understand the full cost of their plane tickets and prevents airlines from adding hidden fees when tickets are being purchased.

Defending DACA:

Attorney General Stein stood up for North Carolina's 27,000 beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, urging the administration to maintain and defend the program. Since DACA's inception five years ago, nearly 800,000 young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children have been granted DACA status after paying application fees, submitting to and passing background checks, and applying for work permits.

Defending an Open Internet:

Attorney General Stein took action to block the Federal Communication Commission's illegal attempt to roll back net neutrality. The Attorney General believes North Carolinians must have access to reliable internet to educate their children, run their businesses, engage with the world, and connect with family and friends.



The internet is the core infrastructure of the 21st century -- it must be open to all.

Your Investment in Justice in North Carolina

We work hard to be good stewards of your taxpayer investment in the Department of Justice. Here is an overview of what North Carolina gets for the \$82 million investment:

Where does your DOJ dollar go?

Using science to convict the guilty
and exonerate the innocent



Protecting tax dollars and
limiting state liability



Prosecuting
criminals



Running the
department



Notice something missing? Our work protecting
consumers and vulnerable people is 100% self-funded.
That saves taxpayers about \$5 million every year.

Training and educating law
enforcement officers

Protecting the
environment

Thank you for reading the North Carolina Department of Justice's 2017 annual report. We hope you will continue to stay engaged with our work at ncdoj.gov, @ncago on Twitter and at facebook.com/ncdoj.